

# Companion Synod-Hungary Visits

Below is an excerpt from a 2017 newsletter of the Lutheran Church in Hungary that highlights some of the companion synod visits that have taken place between the Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA and the Lutheran Church in Hungary.

**History:** Steve Nelson, the ELCA Chicago-based Global Service Director, has visited the Evangelical Roma College (ERSZK) several times and will send the organization volunteers each year to the Evangelical Institutes of Nyiregyháza, including the College.

In 2013, we **received Steven L. Ullestad**, the bishop of the Northeastern Church District, as well as fifteen students at Wartburg College and the six-member Delegation of the Church District, and in 2014 a film crew arrived to us for the ELCA “Young Adults in the Global Mission” YAGM) volunteers to give their home for their activity here. In 2015, it’s time to fly the “first swoop” to the United States. János Jéri, a social worker, was given the opportunity for a short American visit, and last year, Erzsébet Molnár, head of institution at Evangelical Roma College, continued to build trust and close human relations in **Waverly**. Now, two professors, Judith Megyesi and Túró Vanda came home from there when we were greeted together in Nyíregyháza with 16 students at **Wartburg College**, their professors and secretary of bishop **Mark Anderson**.

In Germany, they started their European program by visiting Luther Márton memorials, and on May 19, the guests of Iowa arrived to Nyíregyháza, who were invited to the Nagytemplom. In the city’s first monumental building, just as we set up a town to mark the invasion of the tigers, we intro-

duced our American friends to the local history. In the English chapter of the Story of Confidence built in the Stones, the text was read as a sentence with a great pleasure: the visitors immediately received help from the college professors by pronouncing the Hungarian settlement names, while Nyiregyházi students who were faced with the language exams saved the numbering of the numbered digits by the **Wartburg College students**, In the midst of good-tempered laughter. Attila László Kovács, the director of the downtown church, drew attention to some of the architectural features of the church, and then dazzled the young audience with the organ.

On Saturday, the visit of diocesan institutions maintained by local evangelical communities was featured in the program, as this service was mainly concerned with the involvement of YAGM volunteers in **Waverly**. The study of the gypsy mission of the Filadelfia Ward of the Shelter House filled the whole morning, as the testimony of the Romas brothers and sisters, the social services, the program of the land program, the children’s cottage program also provided many novelties and curiosities at Régisszállás. This year, Miles Tyler, an American volunteer, is working at the Nyírtelek-Hellenic Center, under the supervision of the minister of Györfi Györfi. When returning to the county seat, the bus to the Rákóczi street center

of the Oltalom Charity Service came to know the details of homelessness in the maintenance of the Lutheran Church. Here, Miriam Bohlmann-Kunz works as a volunteer, and she also helped Erika Kemenes as the head of the institution. At the next venue, at the Elli’s Love House in Derkovits Street, Rebekah Swygert joined the tour guide, Ilona Sipos, the head of the institution. The visit of the institution ended at the temporary home of Rezeda Street Families, and the activity of the facility was presented by Anita Sós.

On Saturday night, the visitors of the Tokaj wine region and the Roma culture came to the same time: for the visit of the cellar in Tállya and wine tastings, the professors thoroughly pursued entrepreneurs!

Sunday morning at the Bolyai Téri Prayer House of the suburban church, **Mark Anderson’s preaching** and the guests’ wonderful singing service made the service special. After the lunch at Luther Márton Evangelical College, the evangelical Roma College was introduced. After the presentation of the special situation of the students of vocational school students, after the presentation of the characteristics of the catching-up and talent-keeping work in the college, the guests traveled to Budapest. After seeing the tourist attractions of the capital, on May 25, they returned home to **Waverly**.